

I KNOW NOW...

READ ON AND YOU WILL, TOO!

4 Edgehill Road
Peabody, Mass.

Dear Fellow Citizen:

When Election Day comes and you cast your ballot, do you *REALLY* care if you have voted in your best interests?

If you do care, read the enclosed letter written to me in answer to a letter of inquiry that I sent recently to Frank L. Wiggin. My purpose in writing to him was an effort to clear up in my mind certain stories that had been told to me in recent days.

What bothered me was this: supporters of the present administration have intimated that Councillor Wiggin as Mayor would be a continuance of a previous administration and that such a situation would be disastrous for our City. Their remarks were very uncomplimentary to say the least, but unfortunately I did not know at the time whether or not they were true.

I believe that Mr. Wiggin's letter to me will also be of value to you in your determination of which candidate would best serve our City and us. I have his permission to reprint and distribute his letter. I believe that you too will be as favorably impressed by his frankness and his forthright statements.

Very sincerely,

John R. Lombardo
4 Edgehill Road
Peabody, Mass.

FRANK L. WIGGIN

12 PARK STREET

PEABODY, MASS.

My dear Mr. Lombardo:

Thank you for your recent letter to me. In it you have posed a series of questions; my answers will be factual, and, I believe, very enlightening to you.

In the last week or more there have come to me certain rumors, very disquieting because of their brazen falsity. Despite the normal heat generated in a political campaign there have always been certain bounds and guidelines for conduct. These rumors, however, rank with the most vicious tactics ever employed during an election campaign in our City.

Their poisonous content has been directed toward the second and third precincts of Ward Six and the whole of Ward Seven. As we all know these are the sections in which most of our newer citizens reside; these rumors are part of a cleverly thought-out scheme, calculated to take advantage of their lack of knowledge of the facts and of the truth. They are calculated to destroy me, and if they do all well and good — I shall not complain.

But — I cannot — and will not — stand by silent while a man, no longer in public office, is used as a whipping boy and scapegoat by these persons in their efforts to alibi the complete ineffectiveness of the present Mayor.

My opponent is not a vicious man in my opinion. I can understand the enthusiasm of partisan supporters. However, there should be some element of truth in the products of their enthusiasm. From your letter it appears that their approach to you and your neighbors is rather unique. In effect you are asked to vote against Frank L. Wiggin because he is a friend of former Mayor Philip C. O'Donnell.

Then according to my information, and also your letter, the "pitch" begins, and they pour forth their falsehoods and their venom against a man who kept these very individuals at bay for ten years — for ten years while he gave our City the most progressive decade in its history! This man transformed a dying community into one of the most dynamic and forward-looking cities in the Commonwealth. Once again we were respected by our sister municipalities. Problems were recognized and faced, and solutions were undertaken in a business-like, matter-of-fact fashion, without fanfare and without waste and squandering of public funds.

I feel that you too agree with the above statement; you saw fit to become a member of this community despite the objections of those in the City Council who said repeatedly, "we don't want these carpetbaggers — let their own cities and towns keep 'em — we don't want 'em, we don't need 'em!"

You had few supporters, but one of your champions was Phil O'Donnell. And now these enemies of yours are knocking on your door, asking you to perpetuate them in power by maligning the greatest friend you had in City Government.

You are told on the one hand that he did nothing, while on the other hand you are told that what he did was bad. Unfortunately, you who are comparatively new residents do not know whether he did or he didn't. Let me tell you the truth. Let me give you a partial list of accomplishments during Mayor O'Donnell's administration:—

SCHOOLS

92 new classrooms

New Center School completed

New South School completed

New Kiley Brothers Memorial School completed

New West Memorial School completed

Addition to South School completed

Addition to Samuel Brown School completed

Addition to Keefe School completed

Renovation of all other schools instituted

New Leo Buckley Stadium completed

New Fire Station in West Peabody

New Fire Station in South Peabody

New Branch Library — West Peabody

New Fire Equipment purchased for West Peabody

New Fire Equipment purchased for South Peabody

Garbage collections instituted in West Peabody

Rubbish collections instituted in West Peabody

Three-way Radio for Police and Fire Departments

Instituted first Police and Fire Department protection for West Peabody

First new industries in 25 years — Huse Liberty Mica Co.

Tru-Connector Inc., etc.

First Housing for Elderly — 2 projects completed third initiated

Little League Parks — Ward One and Ward Six completed

Ward Seven commenced

Appropriated almost \$1,000,000.00 for addition to J. B. Thomas Hospital, just opened after two (2) years of construction

Brought North Shore Shopping Center to Peabody

Instituted program of modernization of Public Works Equipment — Walters Snow-fighter, front-end loaders, etc.

Comprehensive City-wide Sewer Survey completed 1961

Off-street Parking lots constructed in downtown shopping area

First Sidewalk Program in City

\$1,400,000.00 Program instituted for modernizing water system, new Pumping Stations, standpipes, wells, and enlargement and extension of lines

Completed emergency tie-in with M.D.C. Water System

Let me remind you, Mr. Lombardo, that this is only a partial list. I could go on and on and write of traffic signal installations, roads, improvements to traffic flow, and so many other accomplishments, but I am sure you will agree that the above tangible evidences are not the earmarks of a "do-nothing" administration. And — please bear this in mind — when Phil O'Donnell, sick and tired of being carved up by these small-minded critics left office in 1961, the tax rate was \$68.40; today it is \$75.20 — an increase of 10%.

The City's debt on December 31, 1961 was \$6,300,000.00, and today, less than two years later, it is approximately \$8,600,000.00, an increase of over 35% — (and the year is not over!).

Yet those who oppose me have the brazenness to abuse a man who has contributed so much to the betterment of our City for its inhabitants — both young and old.

If I am elected Mayor of our City I can only hope to accomplish as much toward the improvement of Peabody.

Let me thank you for your kindness in persevering to the end of this lengthy letter. It is not intended as an apology or a defense — neither is necessary; — I just had to set the record straight.

Very truly yours

FRANK L. WIGGIN

EDMUND V. KAVANAUGH
2 FRANKLIN STREET COURT
PEABODY